Applicant : Wu et al.
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Attorney's Docket No.: 13906-139001 / 2003P00611 US01

REMARKS

Applicants have reviewed the Office Action mailed October 4, 2006, and have amended claims 1, 3, 7-12 and 14-22 and canceled claims 6 and 13. Claims 1-5, 7-12 and 14-22 are pending, and Applicants request reconsideration in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections—35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-10, 12-17 and 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,487,552 ("Lei"), and claims 11 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lei in view of Official Notice. Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 12, 19, 20, 21 and 22; as indicated above, claims 6 and 13 have been canceled.

Applicants submit that each of the independent claims 1, 12, 19, 20, 21 and 22 are patentable over Lei, as are the corresponding dependent claims. Support for the claim amendments can be found throughout the originally filed specification, including, for example, at page 2, lines 21-22; page 3, lines 16-27; page 5, lines 28-31; page 6, lines 13-15; page 8, lines 2-4, 8-11, and 22-23; page 9, line 7-8, 12-14 and 18-19; and in FIG. 1. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a method that includes receiving a query for information in a manner that identifies which one of multiple knowledge bases that stores the information. Amended independent claim 1 further recites building a search request that contains a security pattern obtained from a security service that is configured to control access to information in each of the multiple knowledge bases. The security pattern is generated by retrieving a security strategy associated with the identified knowledge base, where the security strategy identifies one or more control entities that are authorized to access the identified knowledge base; retrieving a security profile corresponding to each of the one or more control entities, where each security profile includes an attribute; and generating the security pattern from attributes in the one or more retrieved security profiles.

Lei generally describes "controlling access to information within database management systems." (Lei, col. 1, lines 7-8). In particular, Lei describes "a session between a database client and database server" and "dynamically attaching predicates to queries [in the session]. . . based on a policy" (col. 4, lines 39-44), which may in turn be "based on the current state of the user session." (Col. 16, lines 29-30).

Lei does not anticipate amended independent claim 1. For example, Lei does not describe or suggest a security service that is configured to control access to information in each of multiple knowledge bases. As another example, Lei does not describe or suggest receiving a query for information in a manner that identifies which one of multiple knowledge bases that stores the information. As another example, Lei does not describe or suggest obtaining a security profile by a) retrieving a security strategy associated with the identified knowledge base, where the security strategy identifies one or more control entities that are authorized to access the identified knowledge base; b) retrieving a security profile corresponding to each of the one or more control entities, each such security profile including an attribute; and c) generating the security pattern from attributes in the one or more retrieved security profiles.

Lei also does not render claim 1 obvious. In particular, Lei describes and illustrates a system that controls access to a single database (e.g., database 202, illustrated in FIG. 2), in a particular way. Lei's system would not work in an environment of multiple knowledge bases. Moreover, Applicants have claimed methods for managing access to multiple different knowledge bases from one central location, where access controls can be easily maintained and modified using security strategies that can be associated with specific knowledge bases and security profiles that correspond to control entities included in the security strategies. Lei does not describe or suggest the security strategies or security profiles recited in Applicants' amended claims, and Lei's system cannot provide easy-to-maintain, centralized access control for multiple knowledge bases.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons outlined above, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 1 and the corresponding dependent claims 2-5 and 7-11 are patentable over Lei and ask that the Examiner withdraw the rejections based on Lei. Amended

independent claims 12, 19, 20, 21 and 22 recite similar language as that discussed above with respect to amended independent claim 1. Accordingly, amended independent claims 12, 19, 20, 21 and 22 are believed to be patentable over Lei for substantially the same reasons provided above with reference to amended independent claim 1. Applicants ask for the withdrawal of the rejection based on Lei of amended independent claims 12, 19, 20, 21 and 22 and of the corresponding dependent claims 14-18.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 1-5, 7-12 and 14-22 are in condition for allowance and request that the Examiner allow them.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.
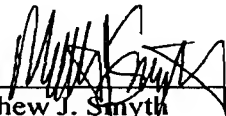
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This response is accompanied by a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, a Petition for One-Month Extension of Time and the corresponding fees. No other fee is believed due in connection with this submission. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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